

Approved For Release 2001/04/01 : CIA-RDP82-00457R004700240007-4

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
SUBJECT Miscellaneous Information on the HVA

CD NO. 25X1A

DATE DISTR. 19 APR 50

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE 25X1A

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO

While it is true that Minister Wilhelm Zaisser is still on occasion being consulted on HVA matters, it would be incorrect to say that he has remained the de facto head of that organization. Zaisser's farewell circular in which he referred to Zorn as "provisionally in charge of the HVA" (mit der kommissarischen Leitung beauftragt) did not stipulate that he would be answerable to Zaisser. There is no question in anybody's mind that Zorn has full authority in running the HVA (subject, of course, to Soviet orders) and that his signature is binding in the HVA. He signs as: Acting Chief of the HVA (Der Leiter der Hauptverwaltung für Ausbildung, i.V.Zorn). A recent case, in which Zaisser's intercession was requested, was concerned with the provision for HVA personnel going on home leave during the Easter holiday, of special trains which the Reichsbahn released for this purpose only after Zaisser had spoken to Kreickemeyer.

The identity of Zaiser's eventual successor, as far as the rank and file of the HVA is concerned, is still in the realm of speculation. The mention of Richard Staimer's name in this connection is increasingly frequent.*

The organizational nucleus of a naval branch of the NVA now in the process of formation, is carried by the NVA under the designation "z.b.V." (special purpose). It consists of a loose association of NVA officers slated for leading positions in the first naval school of the NVA, for which, in the meanwhile, a site has been established in Porew uber Stralsund. On the distribution key of official NVA circulars, the z.b.V. rates as a sixth Hauptabteilung, a representative having been invited to attend the Conference of School and Bereitschaft Commandants at Berlin-Treptow on 29 March 1950.

Sberpolizeirat Schmidt, who recently transferred from the Pirna School to the Operations Section of Hauptabteilung Stab, has been placed in charge of plans and operations relating to the participation of NVA personnel at Labor Day (1 May) and Whitsun-Eide FDS (28 May) demonstrations. As regards the latter rally,

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Document No. 007
No Change in Class. ☐
☐ Declassified
Class. Changed To: TS S (C)
Auth.: HR 70-2
Date: 15 JUN 1978 00457E 004700240
01-CHARLES by: 011

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Schmidt will coordinate with Kommandeur Erwin Engelbrecht, a ranking HVA staff officer on loan as operations chief to the committee in control of the FDJ rally. On 18 March Schmidt looked up Engelbrecht to receive some basic directives on the contribution the HVA will be called upon to make.

5. The figure of HVA effectives in attendance on 28 May most frequently mentioned by authoritative sources officially concerned with moving and billeting them, is 10 000. Whether this figure applies only to troops that will be brought into Berlin from the Zone, i.e., not including the Bereitschaft in Treptow, or whether this figure is all-inclusive, is not quite clear at this stage. The following housing facilities are tentatively considered and currently being surveyed: a. The Central Supply Dump (Zentrale Versorgungslager) in Berlin-Lichtenberg, b. The Treptow Compound, c. The former poison gas factory in Niederlehme über Königswusterhausen. Upon inspection, the last was found acceptable for housing approximately 1200 men.
6. In source's opinion, the HVA representation participating in the FDJ rally, will not mingle with FDJ units at official parades and marches. For that reason alone, it is unlikely that the participants will be issued arms. Whereas the FDJ contest staged by the various Objekte may be a determining factor in the choice of units and individuals ordered to Berlin attendance will not be confined to FDJ members within the Objekte since the total number of 10 000 by far exceeds the total membership of the FDJ segment within the HVA.
7. New uniforms have been issued "for testing purposes to the 5th Brandenburgische Bereitschaft in Küchensee. This Bereitschaft was picked solely on the grounds of its remoteness, providing some assurance that the "new look" will not leak out prematurely. A total of 1500 uniforms have been issued, with the explicit proviso that they will be worn only while on duty. The commander of the Bereitschaft has been instructed to report his findings on how the new uniforms stand up under training conditions. Without waiting for the outcome of the Küchensee test, orders have been placed for large-scale manufacture of the uniforms. The uniform trousers are of wedge-shaped cut, tapering off toward the ankles where they can be tied to the leg with laces, loosely overlapping the boots, leaving plenty of play for the knees. In addition, the uniform has a blouse and an Army-style shirt. Trousers and blouse are dyed dark blue, the shirt a dark, earthen-brown khaki. It should be stressed that the color of the uniform is not considered final, but that it will be determined on the basis of the Küchensee test and a staff study made by a member of the Operations Section of Hauptabteilung Sta' and a member of the Clothing Section of Hauptabteilung Intendantur. The uniform to be worn by HVA personnel during the FDJ rally will presumably consist of trousers and shirt.
8. The factory site at Niederlehme über Königswusterhausen is under active consideration as serving the following purposes: a. to house permanently a unit of 300 men, detached by the Bereitschaft in Berlin-Treptow for training under field conditions; b. to house temporarily 1200 men visiting Berlin during the FDJ rally; c. conversion into a central ammunition dump of the HVA. A mixed commission was dispatched on 17 March to determine whether the site in question is suitable for any of the aforementioned purposes. Tentative findings are affirmative in respect to a and b, but point out that as regards c, a considerable investment involving the construction of storage bunkers may be required.
9. The Information Section under Inspekteur Guenther Ludwig can, on the basis of available inconclusive evidence, be dismissed as representing an operative intelligence branch of the HVA.

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culled from the daily press and other overt information media, which has a bearing on the activities of the HVA, and to keep the chief of the HVA informed along those lines. The latest addition to Ludwig's staff is Kommandeur (fnu) Will, who was transferred from Hauptabteilung Polit/Kultur. Prior to joining the HVA, Will belonged to the Berliner Rundfunk, the SED dominated broadcasting station of the East-Zone, for which he wrote political plays. Reportedly, he attended the Nuremberg Trials as a reporter. It is planned to have him edit a special newspaper for the HVA.

10. The Conference of School, Bereitschaft and Leitstellen Commandants at Berlin-Treptow on 29 March, will be devoted to discussion of the problems involved in lifting the moral and political level of HVA personnel. This is the first conference which will not range over the complete field of all the aspects of HVA operations, but will confine itself to a circumscribed issue. Of particular interest should be a two-hour lecture scheduled for delivery by Inspekteur Teigel, the head of the Party Control Commission of the HVA, which will deal with the value of political work in the Objekte. Hans Wulz is slated to talk about the disciplinary code as a means of education, and Hans von Weech on treatment and care given to peoples' property in the peoples' police.
11. On 18 and 19 March a conference took place in Berlin-Treptow, attended by SED delegates of the HVA who had been elected at a Party Meeting shortly before.
12. A central weapons shop (Zentrale Waffenwerkstatt) of the HVA has been installed in Doberlug-Kirchhain in Land Brandenburg. The shop is designed as a training unit for ordnance specialists.
13. The advanced training school for officers in Kochstedt is also attended by ranking officials of the Hauptverwaltung für Volkspolizei. It should not be ruled out that officials of the Ministry for State Security may likewise be sent to that school.

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Comment: Stalmer, formerly head of the Landespolizei-behörde of Land Brandenburg, is believed to be attending a military training course in the USSR. He served as a ranking officer in the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War. The fact that he is Wilhelm Pieck's son-in-law has been adduced as one of the reasons why he will be considered for the job vacated by Zaisser in preference to his former superior, Minister of Interior Bernhard Bechler of Land Brandenburg, also believed to be undergoing training in the USSR.

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